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## ST. JULIEN RAVENEL, M.D.

DR. ST. JULIEN RAVENEL, whose death occurred on March 15, 1882, was no ordinary man. With large scientific knowledge and a mind eminently qualified for scientific research, he joined the ardor of the speculative philosopher to a patience in experiment and inquiry which never failed. There was in the changed conditions of agriculture in his native State and in the South a vast arena for the exercise and application of scientific investigation. There was his chosen work.

The origin and rapid development of the manufacture of commercial fertilizers in South Carolina; the simplification of the modes of manufacturing fertilizers so as to lessen the cost and enlarge the area of consumption; the discovery of a system by which small grain and hay can be grown in profusion on the worn-out and sandy lands of the Carolina coast; a mode of turning to immediate account the lands which, it was thought, must be abandoned if ever the culture of rice should become unprofitable; the use of artesian wells in and around Charleston for supplying mills and factories with water at an considerable expense, — all these are inseparably connected with the name of Dr. St. Julien Ravenel.

Dr. St. Julien Ravenel, the eldest son of the late John Ravenel, was born in Charleston, S. C., on December 15, 1819, where he received his early education in the grammar-schools of that city. Subsequently he went to New Jersey to continue his studies, and finally applied himself to medicine. He was a student with Drs. Holbrook and Ogier, and was graduated at the Medical College in Charleston in the class of 1840. Afterwards he continued the study of medicine at Philadelphia and in Paris. Upon his return to Charleston he became Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Medical College, but resigned the position after a time. The active practice of medicine was distasteful to him, although he had the promise of a highly successful career.

He now determined to devote his life to scientific pursuits. He became intimate with the late Professor Agassiz, and was associated with him in his investigations. Dr. Ravenel pursued with especial interest the study of natural history and physiology, being particularly skilful in microscopic researches. Chemistry, however, was his favorite pursuit, and in chemistry as applied to agriculture he achieved his most important results. When the war broke out he went into

service with the *Phoenix Rifles*, and was with that command at the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Somewhat later he was assigned to duty at Columbia. After the war he returned to Charleston, and upon the discovery of the value of the phosphate deposits of South Carolina for agricultural purposes he founded one of the phosphate companies, and remained identified to the close of his life with various chemico-agricultural companies in South Carolina.

It was Dr. Ravenel who some years ago raised new hopes in the whole low country of South Carolina by the explanation of means by which large crops of small grain and hay could be made on the light sandy lands on the coast, and he had so demonstrated the practicability of his views that a company is in progress of formation with the object of commencing operations on the delta of the Santee River.

Dr. Ravenel took great interest in the effort to secure to Charleston an abundant supply of pure water. He closely watched the boring of the first artesian well, and one effect of his observations was the boring of artesian wells of moderate depth for the use of mills and factories.

When the yellow fever ravaged Norfolk, he was one of the band of volunteers who went from Charleston to the relief of that unfortunate city. As surgeon-in-chief of the large Confederate hospital in Columbia, he won the admiration of the citizens not more by his skill than by his kindness.

By the death of Dr. Ravenel Charleston loses one of her most devoted and eminent sons, who has perhaps done more to develop the native resources of South Carolina than any other single individual.

#### ADMIRAL JOHN RODGERS.

JOHN RODGERS, U. S. Navy, was born in Hartford County, Maryland, Aug. 8, 1812. His paternal grandfather was a lieutenant-colonel in the Revolutionary War, and served with credit in command of Maryland troops. His father was Commodore John Rodgers, the well-known naval commander of the early part of the present century. The subject of the present sketch was appointed a midshipman in the Navy in 1828, and found his first duty in the Mediterranean squadron on board the ship *Constellation*. After passing his examination in 1834, he desired to obtain a better education than was practicable on board ship, and therefore secured a year's leave of absence, which he spent at the University of Virginia. During the five years following, his life was the usual one of the naval midshipman of the